I've lived all of my life being true to myself, that's all.

Always have.

Alwaaays, OK?

section.3

戸川麗華

reika togawa

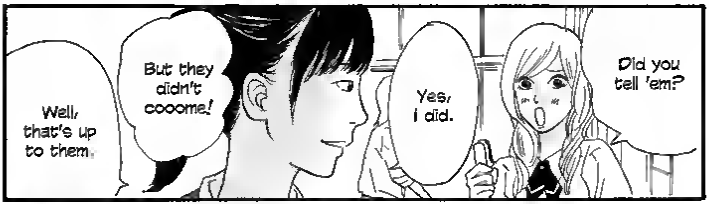
As far back as I can remember, I grew up being the type who would frequently and tirelesssly go around taking care of others' needs, and so my mother would always tell me, "You're such a good child!"

Hey, can't you say something to them? Make them help us clean!
Gasp!
What the heck!
Mm'kay?

Um, not you? I wasn't saying YOU were annoying, Togawa-san
It's cause, you know,
you're the class rep!
OK? I mean it!
I understand
Thought so!
Ehhh? Well, I don't want anyone to think I'm annoying!
It's their turn too, right?
Goeh. Miho, why don't you tell them yourself?
Yep, yep
...Oh!

I'm used to people like them being annoyed of me.
Umm.
GYAHAHA!
Arishima.
Okano.
Kimura.
Excuse me?
HUH?
to clean.
It's your turn

When someone deliberately retorts with a, "Huh?".
It sounds like nothing short of scoffing at other people.
I'm sure there must be a better time and place to use it.


Did you tell 'em?
Yes, I did.
But they didn't cooome!
Well, that's up to them.

HUH?
...I'm going to empty the trassssh!
Hey, do you know what her first name is?
Nope
A beautiful flower written out as "Reika."
No way?
Un-
unfor-tuna-te.
Pppppfft!

Oh.
.....
Don't know what you're trying to get at.
Scoot Scoot
!
All done with the cleaning?
You're awesome, Class Rep!
Good job!

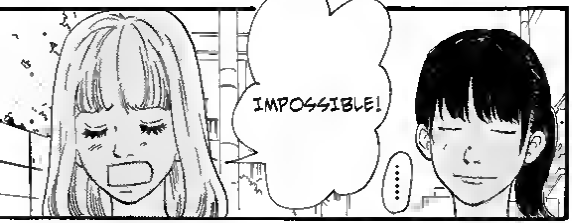
I have no particular interest in them
These people are so different from me
Kyu-i-i-n
You owe me
Dumb
Thank you!
Wait, Anshima, you took out the trash?
Rei-chan!
What's up?
I wanna walk home with you.
OK, I'll go now.
You waited for me?
Yeah, I saw you from our window tossing out the trash.
Never seen her around?
Togawa-san's little sister
She's a freshman
Ohh

I thought that he might still be there...
.....
But Yuuka, dad's so nice to you
Ugh!
He just treats me like a little kid!
That was the most difficult period of time for us.
Several years before, my dad who loved to party and show off,
ran his third-generation family diner out of business, accumulated debt, and then left us.
Most likely because he broke up with some woman, he then frequented
the apartment where the three of us, mom and daughters, had been living
Hey, there!

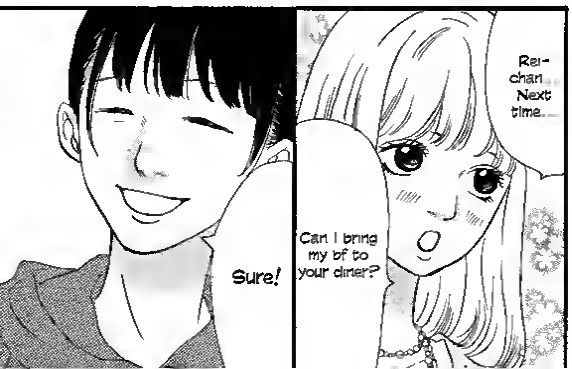
Where'd your mother go?
Isn't she at her part-time around now?
Didn't she say she had the day off?
Did she? Dunno. She never really has any days off though?
I see...
Hm?
Oh
No, it's OK...
I left the takigomi gohan from last night in the fridge.
It's OK, it's OK
Re-chan!
You know, you're just wasting your time trying to pester us for cash.
Have you eaten?
Where are you going?
Work.
Yuuka too?
She's going to a friend's house
Make sure you put the key under the flower pot!
Yeah...
Be safe...

You're too nice, Rei-chan!
Really?
They should hurry up and get a divorce. Mom is nice, so he takes advantage of her! Ugh, please!
Yeah. Mom can be naive
That man is a fool from head to toe. No one can save him!
Dad must be lonely too.

Scum!


IMPOSSIBLE!
……

……


Rei-chan Next time…
Can I bring my bf to your diner?
Sure!

If you consider him a miserable old man, you can't stay mad, can you?
Welcome!
How many?
Your seats are back here!
chatter
chatter
chatter

What, big brother?
Uh, nothing

Togawa-san, order for table 10!
OK!

Hello, have you decided on your order?
Yes, um...
Oh.

*T/N: A Korean noodle dish of long and thin hand made noodles made from the flour and starch of various ingredients.

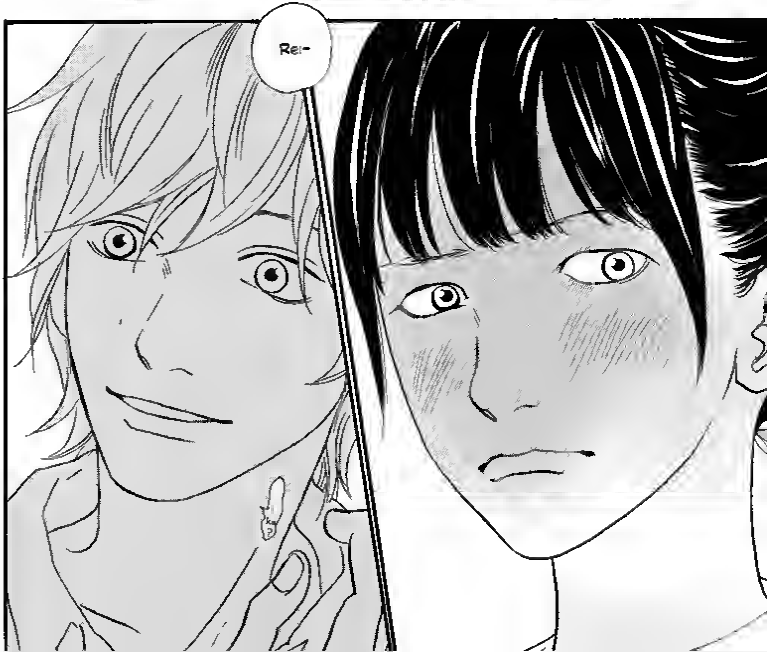
Huh? Togawa-san, you work? Where at?
At a Korean BBQ near my house
Wooow, surprising!
Right?
I go there a lot. When did you start?
I was over at a diner in Sakaemichi until then
Last week.
Huh.
Oh, no wonder.
What do you mean
Because I need money.
Why?
Why?
You said it!
Class rep and Korean BBQ? Doesn't mix!
.....
So you've been working long?
What are you trying to find out?

meat.
I happen to love
And
dinnnnng
doooong
daaaang
dinnnnng
Not that
it really matters.
answer him seriously.
I didn't

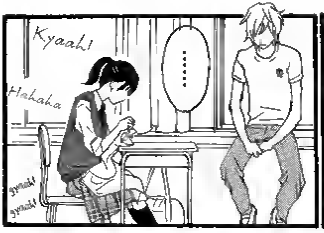
VIVA MEAT!!
I love it!
MEAT, MEAT, MEAT.
CHALK Rattle!
Right? How mean!
God, that's so messed up.
.....
It might be... Kimura or
Okario...
it wasn't me, OK?
Absolutely not!
THESE PEOPLE
Just so you know,

Sorry, OK?
.....
Hey
Hey.
Have troubling minds, don't they?
Wipe!
Wipe!
Wipe!
Uh, more like "open"?
Hey.
So conscientious
Oh
Cause of my friends?
.....
Why are you apologizing?
She has a boyfriend
What's he like?
He attends Tokyo U
YUCK.
Oh so it's her?
Your little sis!
She's pretty cute.

Isn't that your name?
Huh?
Tokyo U huh?
You're kidding?
And you, Reika?


Rei-

Why did it choose this moment to evoke such a fierce reaction out of me?
A name which I was constantly teased for back then.
A name given to me by my father, which will never be anything else but an unpleasant complex of mine.
became
I
extremely curious
Your button is loose.


Kyaah!
Hahaha
Ymad
Ymad

Want me to sew it back on?
Huh?
Ah

Whaaat?
Bwahah!

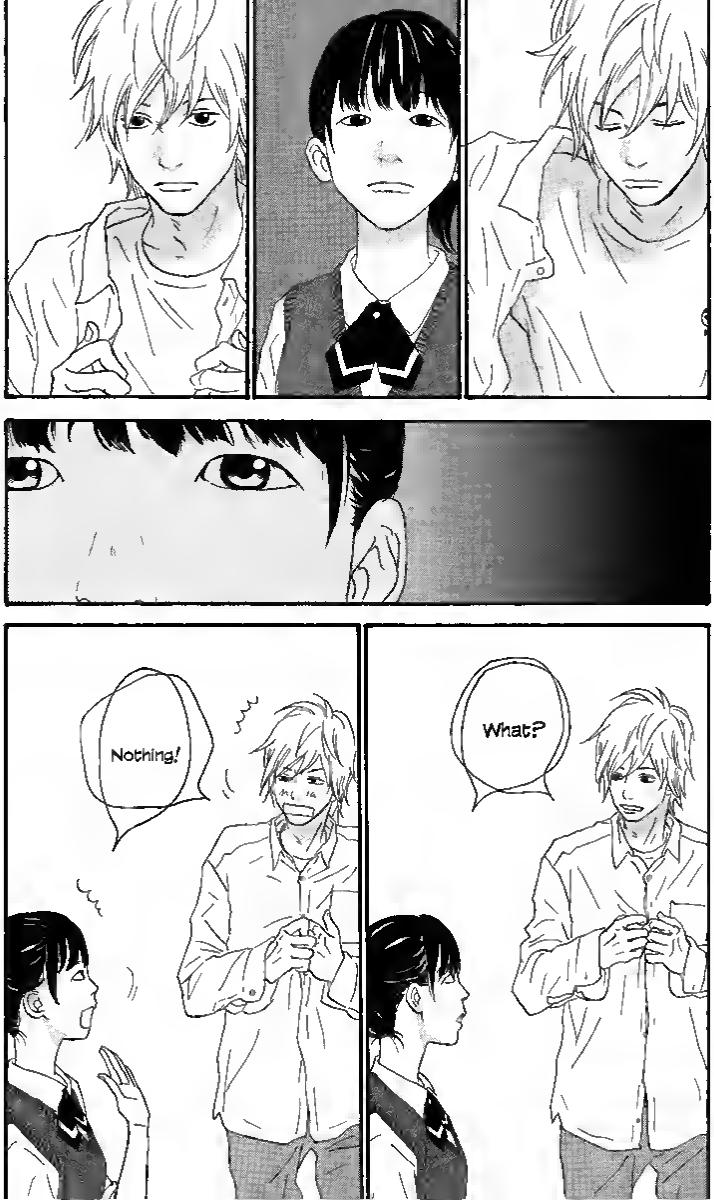
Clunk

What're you guys doing?
Haha!
Ah?
No-thing

Huh?
Wait, what'm i supposed to with the needle
still in?

I'm sorry.
People will laugh when you're with me.

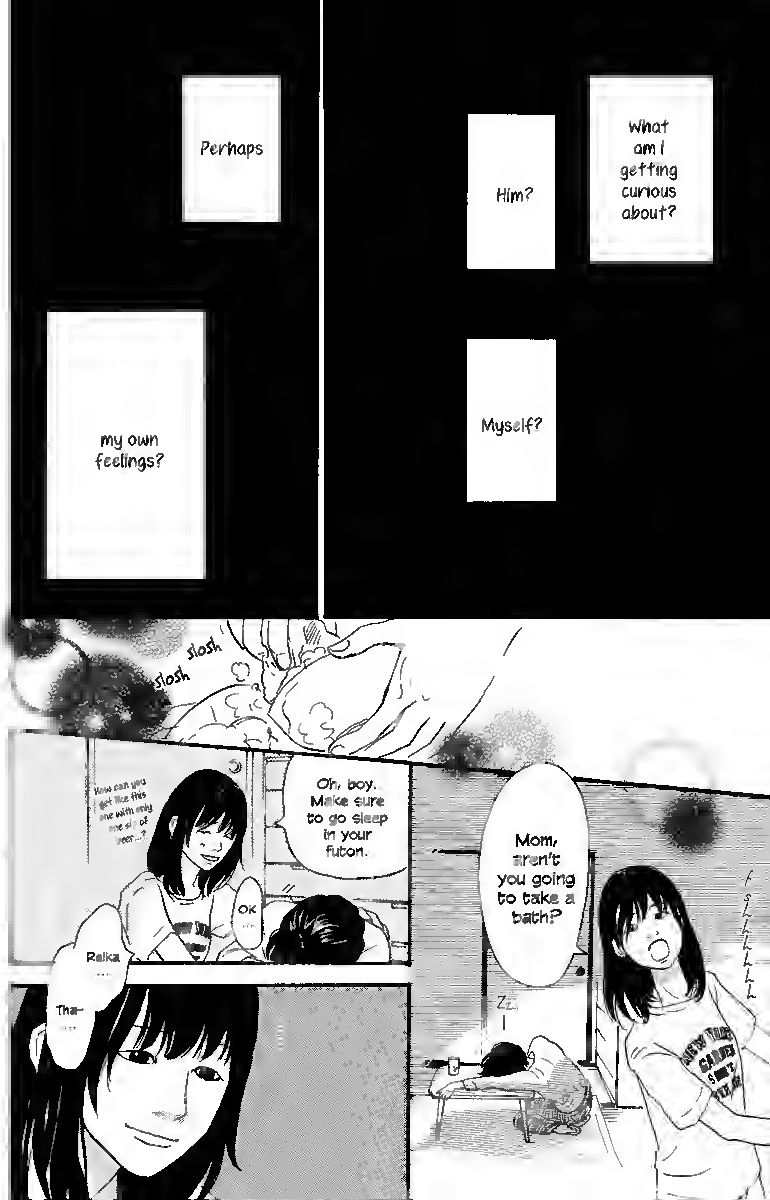
Why
do you need money?
right time to say "Huh?"
Now that was the
I plan to apply for a student loan.
My dad is unemployed, not always at home, and even though he does come back from time to time, we depend on our mom's part-time job to provide us with food.
Uh... Uh, what about your parents? Wait, what about you?
I want to send my sister to college, so I'm trying to save up
Thanks
OK
Oh
It's done.
Oh-
Ohh...
Hmm...


What?
Nothing!

AH HHH-
RI III II-
SHI IIII-
MA!

What are you up to?!
Oh, Class Rep! Our teacher's calling you!

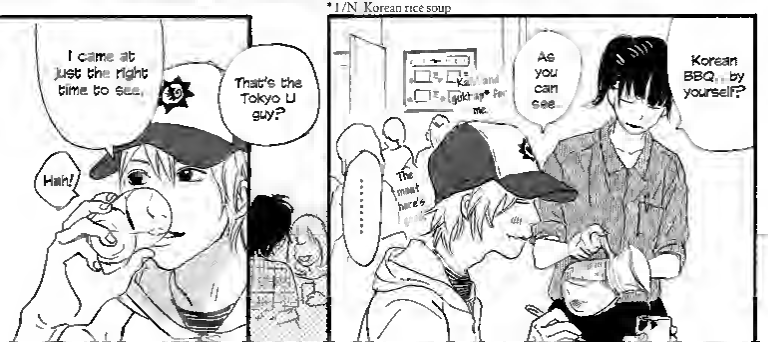
Listen, Arishima!
What now?
Crap!
Thanks
Ummm


What am I getting curious about?
Him?
Myself?
Perhaps
my own feelings?
slosh slosh
How can you get like this one with only one sip of beer...?
Oh, boy. Make sure to go sleep in your futon.
Mom, aren't you going to take a bath?
Zz...
OK...
Raika...
Tha-...

You're a good child
Rai
Thanks
Welcome!
chatter
chatter
chatter
They look quite alike, eh
Tee-hee!
He's hot!
I know already!
Why? Is it wrong to say that?
I'm not treating, OK?
Nice to meet you
Oh, hello
Wel-cooo-me!
I'm Satou
Please take care of me!
I'm Yuuka's older sis
Nice to meet you too!

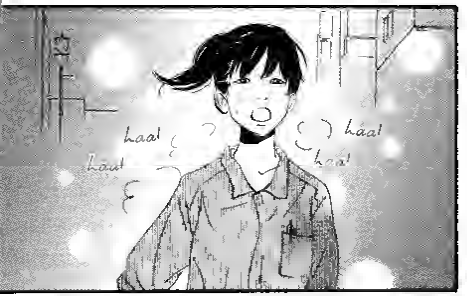
chatter chatter
giggle giggle
"Guys and girls who go to a Korean BBQ must be having sex".
I've often heard this is a widely accepted opinion.
VIVA MEAT!
I want
to eat meat.

*1/N. Korean rice soup



Thanks for the meal!
Thank you very much
chatter
chatter
I'm sorry, a customer forgot something.
Oh, okay!
Be careful!

ARISHIMA-KUN!



Today, wasn't I called in by the teacher for something?
.....
AH?
Are you and Miho Yamashita going out?
Huff
No...
we're not going -
OK!

Hmm
Mmm?
Nnn...

HAH!
SHOVE
Haa
.....

That felt great!
I was extremely ordinary.

chatter
chatter
It resulted from doing as I pleased
.....
Good morning.
Mor-ning.

Hahaha
chatter
chatter
.....
Whoo!
Whoo!
Ahhh
Hahaha...

The days went on as usual after that.
I worked efficiently at my post as the class rep
got the bath ready for my mother
made dinner for my sister
went to work
and dismissed my father.
Then when I had decided on going to university and it was almost time to graduate
he finally said those words.
Uh...
Before you...
go.
Tell me your
cell phone number.
Reika-chan!

Ahh, that...
made me lose it...
YOU'RE BRINGING THAT UP?
YOU ARE GOING TO BRING THAT SUBJECT UP!?
You said it as if you were so superior.
Look, that kind of stuff was hard for guys in their teens, OK? Don't be heartless!
Sort of like you were saying, "I'm Mr Popular, and you should be happy I'm asking for your number."
Is that the alcohol talking?
No, you're sober.

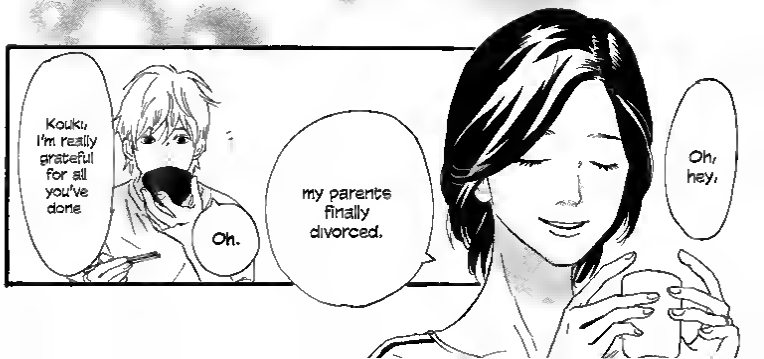
including Miho Yamashita
came as a surprise to every one of our classmates
The fact that we were dating and even got married

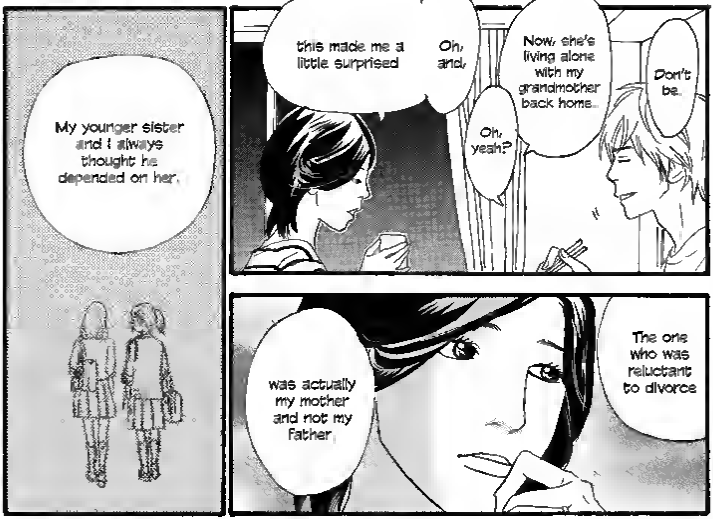
I'm doing really well right now.

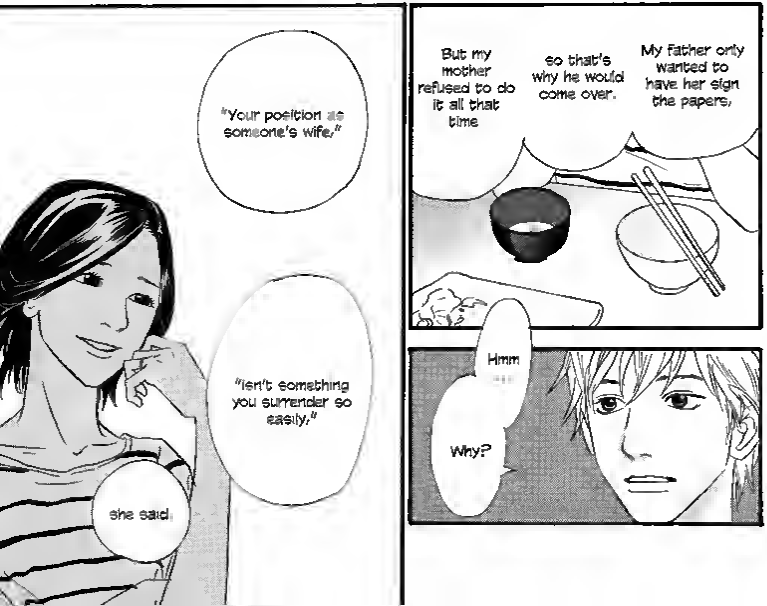
As the eldest daughter whose mother has always said I was good at taking care of others,

I'm now managing my own home cleaning and decorating as I see fit,

and I plan our everyday meals, pondering over one thing or another, while having a real feeling that someone other than herself actually needs me.




My younger sister and I always thought he depended on her.
this made me a little surprised
Oh, and,
Oh, yeah?
Now, she's living alone with my grandmother back home.
Don't be.
was actually my mother and not my father.
The one who was reluctant to divorce

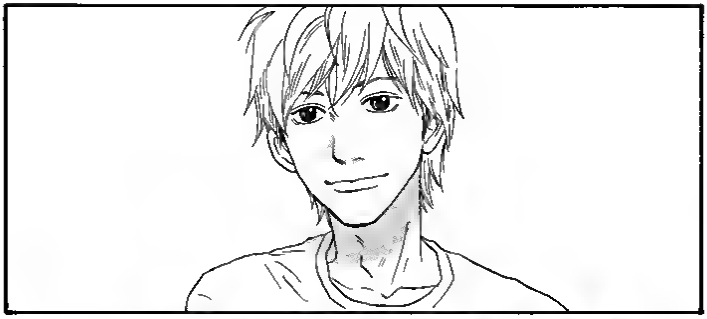

"Your position as someone's wife."
"isn't something you surrender so easily."
she said.
But my mother refused to do it all that time
so that's why he would come over.
My father only wanted to have her sign the papers.
Hmm
Why?

Hmm.
She must have really loved your father.
She's also stubborn too.
My younger sister never went to college.
Instead, she is living in New Zealand with her husband, who is fifteen years her senior, and their eldest daughter who will soon be turning three.
And as for me...
Then wouldn't it be better for you to go back home and give birth there?

Utsunomiya, isn't it?
Your grandma would be there
That'd be reassuring
Yeah
I've been thinking that too
But I'm a little nervous about changing hospitals
Ahh.

Then, how about on my next day off we go there together?
Sure.
Thanks.

Kouki.
Just because I won't be around, doesn't give you the license to
spread your wings, OK?



Well, well.

You're using it correctly.

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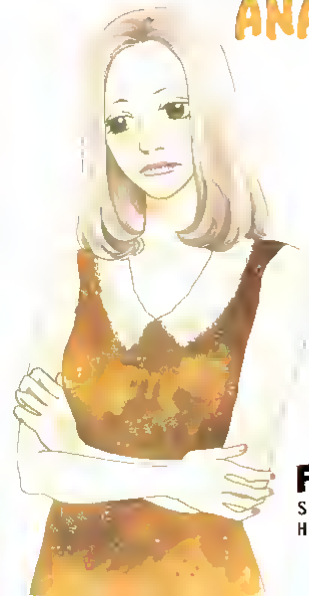

ANATA NO KOTO WA SOREHODO

(THAT'S HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU)

VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 3:
REIKA TOGAWA

TRANSLATED BY HATSUMIMI
PROOFREAD BY HYEOMI
CLEANED BY MINELAUVA
TYPESETTED BY MINELAUVA
QUALITY CHECKS BY STILETTO

FEELINGS ABOUT THIS CHAPTER?

Stiletto: Viva Meat!
Hats: Meat, meat, meat!